GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:119
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2004
PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN EDUCATION
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to implement a national action plan to ensure more participation of women in the field of education ;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be finalised;

(c) the salient features of the said scheme;

(d) the norms for selecting universities for giving grants under this scheme ; and

(e) the names of universities which are being considered for these grants?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.119 ASKED BY SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE REGARDING PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN EDUCATION FOR REPLY ON 13.7.2004

The National Policy on Education, 1986 and its Programme of Action, 1992 provides for a well−conceived emphasis in favour of women's education. The policy envisages that the national education system will play a positive, interventionist role in the empowerment of women and, while the removal of women's illiteracy and obstacles inhibiting their access to, and retention in, elementary education will receive overriding priority, major emphasis will be laid on women's participation in vocational, technical and professional education at different levels.

One of the basic principles of governance, as contained in the Government's Common Minimum Programme, is to fully empower women politically, educationally, economically and legally. The programme envisages, among other things, that village women and their associations will be encouraged to assume responsibility for all development schemes including primary education.

The Government have launched many programmes for the education and empowerment of women, such as the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mahila Samakhya schemes, expanding board and hostel facilities for girl students of secondary and higher secondary schools etc. The Ministries of Social Justice and Empowerment and Tribal Affairs are also implementing schemes of residential schools for scheduled caste/tribe girls in areas of very low literacy as well as the award of scholarships to SC/ST students with special emphasis on girls. Under the Women's Vocational Training Programme, there are women's Industrial Training Institutes affiliated to the Directorate General of Employment and Training.

The following facilities are provided by the University Grants Commission (UGC) for women in higher education:

i) Under the scheme of Grants to Women Universities for Technical Courses, financial assistance is provided for the introduction of undergraduate courses in emerging areas under Engineering & Technology with a view to give women the opportunity in areas perceived to be prestigious and associated with better emoluments and work conducted, and to reduce the gender imbalance in the sphere of Engineering & Technology.

ii) There is a special scheme for construction of women's hostels.

iii) Women study centres have been set up by the UGC in many universities.

iv) A scheme of Part-Time Research Associateships for Women has been floated by the UGC.

v) Centres have been set up to provide day-care facilities on payment basis at universities for children from around 3 months to 6 years of age, whose parents (University employees/ research scholars) are away from home throughout the day.

vi) Constitution of cells to combat sexual harassment in universities.

The selection of universities in each of these schemes is made as per the norms prescribed by the UGC. All the universities included under Section 12 (B) of the UGC Act are eligible to apply under the above schemes.

The education of women and girls continues to be an area of emphasis in the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)'s programmes and projects.